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HILL, John H.

MSRC Staff

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JOHN H. HILL LETTERS  
Collection 46-1

Prepared & Revised by:  
Greta S. Wilson  
June 1980

## Scope Note

This collection contains two letters written in 1882 by John H. Hill, an ex-slave and lawyer from Virginia. One of the letters gives a personal account of his life which appears to be the only readily available biographic information on Hill.

## Biographical Data

(The biographical information provided below is taken from a letter written by Hill (June 2, 1882) to Mrs. N. C. Brackett, one of the founders of Storer College, Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. This letter may be found in the collection.)

1855            Born July 4, in Charlestown, Virginia, a slave of the William Alexander family  
Mr. Alexander was later charged as being Hill's natural father.

1865            Ran away from home at the age of ten.

1866            Was captured by Union Soldiers and taken in by Captain Whitmore and later by his  
father. Samuel Whitmore sent Hill to School in N.Y.

1866?-1877?   Went to Maine and studied Latin. Attended Litchfield Academy and taught school to  
help pay for expenses.

1877-1879    Worked in law office of Talliman and Larrabee while studying law.

1882            Admitted to the Bar in Virginia.

1936            Died.

## Series Description

**Series A**  
Box 46-1

**Correspondence**

Two letters written by Hill in June of 1882; one giving a personal account of his life.

## Container List

### **Series A**

Box

46-1

### **Correspondence**

Folder

1 Letter, 1882 June 2, to Mrs. Brackett

2 Letter, 1882 June 3, to N. C. Brackett